



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

APR 21 2004

Sheriff Warren E. Rupf
Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office
1980 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553-4800

Dear Sheriff Rupf:

On behalf of the Office of the General Counsel at the Federal Election Commission, I would like to express our appreciation for the invaluable assistance your office provided to the Commission during its investigation into fraudulent mailing and phone banks disseminated by the "East Bay Democrat Committee" during the 1998 general election in California's 10th Congressional District. We are particularly grateful to Lieutenant Jim Hatchell, Administrative and Community Services, who responded to all of our requests in a thorough and highly professional manner.

The Commission successfully completed its investigation and has closed this matter. As a result of the investigation, the Commission concluded an agreement with Adrian Plesha, the individual primarily responsible for these fraudulent communications, who admitted to violating the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), agreed to cease and desist from further violations, and agreed to pay a \$60,000 civil penalty. The Commission also settled with Charles Ball for Congress who admitted to violating the Act, agreed to cease and desist from further violations, and paid a \$24,000 civil penalty. The Commission also referred Mr. Plesha to the Department of Justice for criminal prosecution. Mr. Plesha later pleaded guilty to making false statements to the Commission, and was sentenced to a three-year term of probation, a \$5,000 criminal fine, and 160 hours of community service.

We appreciate your assistance in helping the Commission meet its enforcement responsibilities under the Act. We look forward to working with your agency in the future.

Sincerely,

Lawrence H. Norton
General Counsel

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rhonda J. Vosdigh".

BY: Rhonda J. Vosdigh
Associate General Counsel
for Enforcement

24-04-407-3430